

# MULTISENSORY STORIES FOR STUDENTS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

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# WHAT ARE MULTISENSORY STORIES?

- SHORT NARRATIVES CONTAINING INTERACTIVE SENSORY ELEMENTS
- ONE SENTENCE PER PAGE; ONE SENSORY OBJECT PER SENTENCE
- BRINGS STORIES TO LIFE; STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS
- REPETITION IS KEY: PROMOTES ANTICIPATION + PREDICTION  
(STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN THE ROUTINE OF THE STORY, BEGIN TO ANTICIPATE STORY EVENTS, AND INCREASE THEIR INTERACTION WITH SENSORY OBJECTS)
- USED PRIMARILY IN GREAT BRITAIN FOR STUDENTS WITH PIMD



# CLASSROOM VIDEO LINK

INSERT YOUTUBE LINK HERE



# CREATING THE STORIES

- POWERPOINT, GOOGLE SLIDES, ACTIV-INSPIRE, TINY TAP, ETC...
- ONE STORY PER QUARTER (5-8 PAGES FOR 30-MINUTE LESSON)
- CHOOSE TOPICS THAT CAN BE USED FOR AN EXTENDED TIME
- CONSIDER STUDENT IEP OBJECTIVES
- BRAINSTORM LIST OF SENSORY ITEMS



# STORY TOPICS

- STORIES CAN BE PERSONALIZED (USE STUDENT PICTURES)
- CAN HIGHLIGHT SEQUENTIAL ACTIVITIES + DAILY ROUTINES SUCH AS MEALTIMES, GOING TO SCHOOL, SCHOOL ROUTINES
- ADDITIONAL THEMES INCLUDE: SEASONS, HOLIDAYS, FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND FIELD TRIPS
- STORIES CAN BE USEFUL AT HOME TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT; USE LAMINATED STORY CARDS AND PREFERRED SENSORY ITEMS



# SENSORY ITEMS

- SIGHT: LAMPS, LIGHT-UP TOYS/DECORATIONS
- SOUND: SONGS, INSTRUMENTS, SQUEAKY TOYS
- TOUCH: USE A VARIETY OF TEXTURES (SOFT, HARD, SMOOTH, ROUGH, WARM, COLD)
- SMELL: ESSENTIAL OILS, ROOM SPRAY, CINNAMON STICKS, POTPOURRI
- TASTE: FOOD ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH STORY TOPIC



# QUARTER 1 STORY

## GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

**SENSORY MATERIALS:** BLANKET, LAMP, CLOTHING ITEMS, COMB, BUS HORN, SPRAY BOTTLE, HEATING PAD, FREEZER BLOCK, FAN, TEACHER PICTURES + VOICES, BREAKFAST FOODS

# QUARTER 2 STORY: FALL IS HERE!

**SENSORY ITEMS:** LIGHT-UP PUMPKIN, PRE-LIT CHRISTMAS TREE, HALLOWEEN COSTUMES, SANTA HAT, DRIED LEAVES, FEATHERS, ESSENTIAL OILS, HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS SONGS, PRESENTS WITH SENSORY SURPRISES INSIDE, SNACK FOODS



**Fall is Here**







**Time for trees!**





**Let's dress up.**



A close-up, top-down view of a thick layer of fallen autumn leaves. The leaves are mostly maple-like, with some showing distinct veins and serrated edges. The colors range from pale yellow to deep orange and brown, indicating different stages of decay. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating bright highlights and soft shadows. The overall texture is crinkly and uneven.

**Leaves get crinkly.**



**November is for turkeys.**







**Time for yummy smells.**





**What do you hear?**





**Who wants a present?**





**Time to eat!**



# INCORPORATING IEP OBJECTIVES

- CAUSE + EFFECT: UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU HAVE INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OVER YOUR ENVIRONMENT IS A CRITICAL FOUNDATION UPON WHICH ALL COMMUNICATION IS BUILT
- ATTENTION: FOCUSED, SUSTAINED, SHARED
- TOLERATING SENSORY INPUT: TEXTURES, SOUNDS, SMELLS, TASTES
- FOLLOWING ORAL DIRECTIONS
- IDENTIFYING + LABELING OBJECTS AND PICTURES



# INCORPORATING IEP OBJECTIVES

- REQUESTING + INDICATING CHOICES: OBJECTS, PICTURES, SYMBOLS
- PROVIDING A PURPOSEFUL "BEST-YES" RESPONSE
- INITIATING + RESPONDING TO COMMUNICATION: VERBALIZATIONS, VOCALIZATIONS, CONVENTIONAL GESTURES, CONTACT GESTURES, BODY MOVEMENTS, EYE GAZE, VOICE-OUTPUT DEVICES
- TURN-TAKING + RECIPROCAL COMMUNICATION
- INCREASE FUNCTIONAL, SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATION!!!



# DATA COLLECTION

- VIDEOTAPING
- STICKY NOTE SYSTEM
- TRAINING COMMUNICATION PARTNERS
- KEEP IT MANAGEABLE: YOU DON'T HAVE TO COLLECT DATA ON EVERY STUDENT EVERY SESSION



# STRATEGIES FOR MAXIMIZING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- ROOM SET-UP (STUDENTS AND COMMUNICATION PARTNERS)
- ALL HANDS ON DECK TO MINIMIZE STUDENT WAIT-TIME
- ON-GOING TRAINING TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES
- BE ENTERTAINING: BRING YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND HAVE FUN!



# STRATEGIES FOR MAXIMIZING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- PROVIDE AMPLE WAIT-TIME TO ENCOURAGE STUDENT COMMUNICATION
- USE OF STUDENT'S NAMES...
- FLEXIBILITY: STUDENTS MAY BE MORE/LESS INTERESTED IN CERTAIN PARTS
- STORY REPETITION: STUDENTS DEVELOP FAVORITE PARTS  
(BUILDS EXCITEMENT, ANTICIPATION, AND INTERACTION)



# CHALLENGES

- FUNDING
- DATA COLLECTION
- MANAGING ALL THE MATERIALS!
- TIME MANAGEMENT + STORY LENGTH
- SIMULTANEOUSLY CONSIDERING TOPICS, PAGES, IEP OBJECTIVES, + SENSORY ITEMS DURING STORY PLANNING



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